

4 medical officers selected for promotion

The Air Force announced yesterday that the following medical officers have been selected for promotion.

Selected for promotion to colonel are:

Air Force Inspection Agency
Thomas D. Luna

Air Force Safety Center
Kurt D. McCartney

Selected for promotion to lieutenant colonel is:

377th Aerospace Medicine Squadron
Maj. Joseph P. Simon

Selected for promotion to Major are:

377th Medical Operations Squadron
Capt. Brian N. Palen
Capt. Jack D. Schillen
Capt. Deena E. Sutter

DFAS clarifies civilian retro pay raise

ARLINGTON, Va. (AFPN)—The additional 2.1-percent pay raise for civilian employees authorized by the president Jan. 23, will be retroactive to Jan. 11.

However, before it can take effect, an executive order must be issued addressing how the increase will be split between base and locality pay, said Defense Finance and Accounting Service officials.

After the executive order is issued, the Office of Personnel Management will publish new salary tables based on that guidance.

These tables must then be integrated into the personnel system before any retroactive pay adjustment processing can begin, officials said.

Once the adjustments are processed by the personnel system, calculation of employee pay increases by payroll systems can begin.

As in 2003, not all employees will receive the retroactive part of the pay increase at the same time.

Because of transaction volume, payroll processing of this change must take place over the course of multiple paydays, DFAS officials said.



Photo by Todd Berenger

Lt. Col. James M. Meredith mans the Organizational Health Center that helps Kirtland AFB leadership in units provide a healthier, more productive work environment for employees through combating stress, low morale, organizational malaise and other "maladies" that can afflict the workplace.

Organizational Health Center goal: To make Kirtland AFB a healthy, productive workplace

BY JENNIFER E. WEST
Nucleus Staff Writer

Making work environments at Kirtland AFB "healthier" and more productive is the aim of the new Organizational Health Center manned by Lt. Col. James M. Meredith.

The center that opened here in August provides commanders, union officials, employees and supervisors one place to get help resolving personal, interpersonal, group and organizational problems frequently encountered in today's workplace environment.

Colonel Meredith explains his mission is to help organizations combat the effects of stress, low morale, worker squabbling, distrust of management, workflow management issues and organizational malaise.

"The center also provides a resource for (AFMC) civilian employees with suicidal thoughts, mental disorders, risk of violence, personal problems or job-related problems," Colonel Meredith added. "By working closely with all other helping and service agencies on the base, (the center) is able to determine if a request for assistance is best served by (the center) or if such assistance falls under the mandate of other helping agencies."

Colonel Meredith is the liaison for the installation's employee assistance program, Outcomes, Inc., that is available to all Air Force Materiel Command-serviced civilian employees and their families and household members.

Essentially, Colonel Meredith works as a "corporate psychologist," collaborating with the installation's Judge Advocate General, security

forces and Office of Special Investigation, Equal Employment Opportunity, Military Equal Opportunity, the Partnership Council, labor relations and unions.

And, all that service is offered free to those voluntarily using the short-term problem solving program that is confidential.

Acting as a consultant for managers and supervisors and as a liaison and manager for the Employee Assistance Program, Colonel

fair labor practices filed drop from 30 to 0 between 1995 and 1999. Within that same time span, civilian disciplinary actions dropped from 165 to 10, and Equal Employment Opportunity complaints fell from 45 to 10.

The organizational health center model at McClellan was used as a benchmark, and centers have since been established at installations throughout AFMC.

For further information about the

'The center also provides a resource for (AFMC) civilian employees with suicidal thoughts, mental disorders, risk of violence, personal problems or job-related problems,'

Lt. Col. James Meredith
Organizational Health Center director

Meredith's service is neutral, center-wide, from the organizational perspective and has civilian emphasis even though it can serve military.

"Kirtland AFB helping agencies provide many services already," Colonel Meredith said. "But the Organizational Health Center is a focal point of contact to help facilitate matching needs with the best agency to help...(and provides) consultation on a variety of organizational issues. OHC's specialty is helping units function better (while) the Employee Assistance Program provides help for individuals and their families so the focus at work is on the job."

At McClellan AFB, Calif., where an organizational health center was established, Colonel Meredith said statistics showed a reduction in un-

Employee Assistance Program, call Jane Hertz or Judy Guthrie at 243-7145 or 800-677-2947 or go to the Web site at www.facs.net and then click on "Employee Assistance Program."

Management and employees with concerns about their organizations may contact Colonel Meredith at 853-1030 or by e-mail at james.meredith@kirtland.af.mil.

Colonel Meredith's office is in Room A40, across from the teleconference center in, the 377th Air Base Wing Headquarters Building 20604 at Wyoming Boulevard and M Avenue.

More information about the center is available at www.kirtland.af.mil/Organizations/OHC.



Supplement
www.kirtland.af.mil



Photo by Lisa Gonzales

AFGE Local 2263’s new home dedicated

Col. Henry L. Andrews, Jr., 377th Air Base Wing commander, and Michelle Sandoval, American Federation of Government Employees Local 2263 president, on Monday cut the ribbon in a dedication ceremony at the union’s new office in Building 926 on Biggs Avenue on the installation’s west side. The union office hosted a daylong open house. To Ms. Sandoval’s left are Leslie Maxwell of AFGE and Steven Parker, Civilian Personnel Flight chief. To Colonel Andrews’ right are Maurice Taylor of AFGE and Mark Shores of Civilian Personnel. Also par-

ticipating in the ceremony, left to right, are: Jim Stanley, Alex Montano, Jason Robertson, Col. Steven Bower, Jim Cochran, Richard Ortega, David Bomberger, Col. Linda Jones, Rav Nicholson, Jimmy Argeanas, Maj. Daniel Ponce de Leon, Larry Davis and Geleta Smith. The union is the exclusive representative for all bargaining unit employees at Kirtland AFB. The union can be contacted at 846-4363, fax at 853-2343, e-mail at afge.2263@kirtland.af.mil or through the Web site at www.AFGE2263.org.

Missile Defense Agency opens Kirtland AFB facility

BY KENNETH ENGLADE

Airborne Laser Program Public Affairs

The Missile Defense Agency, a DOD organization headquartered in Washington, officially opens its Kirtland AFB facility, taking over the renovated one-time wing headquarters building at Wyoming and Gibson Boulevards.

The 28,000-square-foot, two-story building houses 172 people: 56 military who are part of the Aeronautical Systems Center, 53 government civilians and 63 contractors. All are part of the \$2.1 billion Airborne Laser program.

The phased move from Airborne Laser’s previous site in a hangar on Target Road on the south side of the base began on Oct. 20 and was completed on Nov. 7.

The organization’s new home was constructed in 1947 and served at various times as the headquarters for both Sandia Base and what is now the 377th Air Base Wing. It has been under renovation for almost three years.

Airborne Laser, which began as a U.S. Air Force

program in 1996, transitioned from the Space and Missile Systems Center to Aeronautical Systems Center, which oversees combat aircraft ranging from long-range bombers to fighters, on Oct. 12, 2001. Three weeks later, on Nov. 1, 2001, management of the program transitioned from the Air Force to the then Ballistic Missile Defense Organization

The Ballistic Missile Defense Organization became the Missile Defense Agency on Jan. 2, 2002, by special order from Secretary of Defense Donald Rumsfeld. The order gave the Missile Defense Agency management responsibility for all of the country’s missile defense programs.

Under the Missile Defense Agency plan each service will be responsible for a different phase of missile defense. Airborne Laser, which is building the world’s first combat aircraft to use a laser as a weapon, will be part of the boost-phase segment, responsible for detecting, tracking, and attacking missiles soon after launch.

Airborne Laser’s first aircraft—YAL-1A—will be armed with six modules of the Chemical Oxygen Io-

dine Laser (COIL), a device invented at Kirtland AFB in 1977 by what was then the Air Force Weapons Laboratory, now a part of the Air Force Research Laboratory.

Six infrared heat seekers strategically placed around YAL-1A’s exterior will detect the plume of a newly launched missile. That information will be passed to a carbon dioxide laser atop the aircraft, which will zero in on the missile and provide detailed tracking information.

Once the missile has been confirmed as a potential target, two kilowatt-class lasers aboard YAL-1A will determine the aim spot on the missile and measure the amount of atmospheric disturbance. Compensated imaging technology, developed at Kirtland AFB’s Starfire Optical Range in the late 1980s, will provide data allowing Airborne Laser’s battle management system to correct for the atmospheric turbulence so the COIL’s megawatt-class beam can strike the missile’s fuel tank, heating the metal skin until it ruptures, in effect causing the missile to kill itself.

Dedicated Airmen fix, manage base vehicles on deployment

BY TECH. SGT. BOB OLDHAM

332nd Air Expeditionary Wing
Public Affairs

TALLIL AIR BASE, Iraq (AFPN)—When a vehicle breaks down here, airmen do not have the luxury of calling a commercial roadside assistance team for help. Instead, a team of 48 people work behind the scenes 24 hours a day, seven days a week to keep the base’s fleet of vehicles on the road.

With almost 470 vehicles to watch over and maintain, the airmen of the 332nd Expeditionary Logistics Readiness Squadron’s vehicle management flight keep their eyes aligned on the customer’s needs.

Rain and mud in the rainy season and heat and dust the rest of the time take a toll on vehicles here, said Senior Master Sgt. Thomas Pearman, the flight’s superintendent deployed here from Shaw Air Force Base, S.C. Mud cakes up underneath the vehicles, causing maintainers extra work to repair broken vehicles. In the summer, scorching temperatures above 120 degrees Fahrenheit and the unrelenting dust break down seals and filters.

“When it first started raining, our wrecker was on the road constantly,” Sergeant Pearman said, noting the flight pulled out 80 vehicles that were stuck around base.

Flight members respond to about 10 calls per day for assistance with vehicles that will not start, have dead batteries or have leaks.

If a vehicle needs a part, the wait can be anywhere from two weeks to months, depending on the part and its availability from a manufacturer. Small items like hoses and belts are stocked on shelves here, but bigger items are shipped in from the United States.

“This [deployment] is definitely a challenge,” said Staff Sgt. Calvin Romero, noncommissioned officer in charge of the general purpose mechanic shop. He is deployed here from Kirtland AFB, N.M. “The other (de-

ployments) have (not been) as extreme for the amount of uses for the Humvees.”

The flight’s biggest challenge is maintaining the base’s Humvee fleet. The Humvee’s break more often than other vehicle because they are used 24 hours a day by security forces personnel, said Sergeant Romero, who is one of 28 special- or general-purpose mechanics.

“The supply system has done really well supporting us with Humvee parts,” Sergeant Pearman said.

Besides maintaining the Air Force’s fleet, maintainers often help out coalition forces who need a hand.